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June 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 133 – May 2018
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On May 16, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to review Region 2's discussions with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) regarding the Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) recommendations for the upper 9 miles of the Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA).
- On May 16, Region 2, CPG, and Region 2 and CPG consultants held a teleconference to discuss Region 2's comments on the Draft 17-mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Sections 1 through 4.
- On May 31, Region 2 and CPG consultants held a teleconference to discuss Chemical Fate & Transport (CFT) Model calibration status.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 133 – May 2018
June 15, 2018
Page 2 of 4

Correspondence

- On May 1, Region 2 provided dates for a potential conference call or meeting to discuss New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) comments on the CSTAG recommendations regarding the upper 9 miles of the LPRSA to CPG.
- On May 7, CPG responded to Region 2's regarding potential dates for a discussion on NJDEP's comments on the CSTAG recommendations.
- On May 9, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails to schedule a call to discuss comments on the Draft 17-mile RI Report Sections 1 through 4 and to confirm the scheduled June 4 Bioaccumulation Model meeting.
- On May 9, CPG consultants submitted proposed conditional simulation maps for the Draft 17-mile Feasibility Study (FS) to Region 2 consultants.
- On May 10, CPG submitted an Upper 9-mile Interim Action memorandum to Region 2.
- On May 11, CPG submitted requested information from the March 28 teleconference on model and fish abundance calculations to Region 2.
- On May 14 and 17, CPG and Region 2 consultants exchanged emails regarding GIS layers to be used in the Draft 17-mile RI report.
- On May 15, CPG delivered the April Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On May 17, Region 2 submitted comments on the revised Appendices G, H and I to the Draft 17-mile RI report to CPG.
- On May 17, Region 2 provided a technical memorandum on the sensitivity of partitioning data used in the Bioaccumulation Model to CPG.
- On May 24, CPG provided suggested changes to Region 2's May 4 preliminary Remedial Action Objectives (RAO) and cover memorandum for the upper 9-mile Interim Action to Region 2.
- On May 25, CPG consultants provided Region 2 consultants an update on several CFT Model topics.
- On May 29, CPG uploaded revised Draft 17-mile RI Report Sections 1 – 4 and Appendix Z to EPA's SharePoint site.
- On May 30, Region 2 provided comments on revised Draft 17-mile RI Report Section 9 and Appendix K (renamed Appendix Z) to CPG.
- On May 30, CPG provided timelines comparing the Upper 9-mile Interim Action, Upper 9-mile Final Remedial Action (RA), and the 8-mile RA to Region 2.
- On May 30, Region 2 requested CPG provide an updated schedule for LPR modeling activities.
- On May 31, CPG provided a proposed agenda for the scheduled June 5 Bioaccumulation Model Calibration update meeting to Region 2.

Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 133 – May 2018
June 15, 2018
Page 3 of 4

- CPG continued work on calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued work on revision of Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG provided responses to DEP's concerns regarding on CSTAG comments on the Upper 9-mile Interim Remedy.
- CPG responded to Region 2 comments and questions on the Upper 9-mile Interim Remedy.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. The Executive Summary, Summary, Conclusions, and References Sections of the revised Draft RI Report and Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) have been partially revised, but additional collaboration with Region 2 is required to complete their revision.
- CPG will continue calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model and continue to work with HDR to complete the calibration.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR FWM pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue discussions with Region 2 regarding comments on the Upper 9-mile Interim Remedy.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

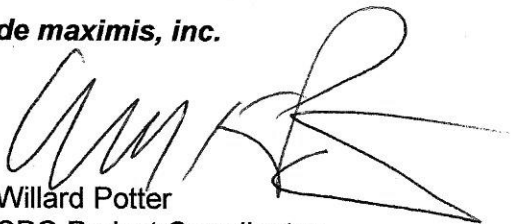
- **Feasibility Study (FS)** – Region 2 and the CPG are currently discussing the refocus of the FS to the upper 9 miles and accelerating its completion and met via teleconference on January 4, March 8, 15 and 29, 2018 and meetings on February 9, April 2, and April 30, 2018.
- **Other Documents** - There are number of reports and technical memos (both original and revised submissions) that have been submitted to Region since 2011 that the CPG is awaiting either approval or Region 2's comments. These reports include:
 1. Upstream Reference Benthic Data Report – submitted August 2013
 2. Background Sediment Data Report – submitted October 2013

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 133 – May 2018
June 15, 2018
Page 4 of 4

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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